

According to the HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN 6, this species does not normally enter the plains in the western part of its range. No records are mentioned further from the hills than Karnal in Haryana.

The first record occurred only a few days after heavy, and unseasonally late snowfalls in the hills of Himachal and Uttar Pradesh, and this may have been the cause of the unusual influx. Large numbers of Blackthroated Thrushes (*Turdus ruficollis*) also appeared at the same time.

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8. PIED GROUND THRUSH *ZOOTHERA WARDII* (BLYTH) IN KERALA STATE

On 14th March 1972 I was staying at Lower Surianalle Estate, Surianalle P.O., High Range, Kerala (elevation 1676 metres a.s.l.). This tea estate lies on the south-eastern slopes of the High Range, some 20 miles from Munnar. My host Mr. C. R. Brown told me that he had seen, that morning, a party of about six speckled back and white birds about the size of blackbirds which he could not identify.

So on the following morning, 15th March 1972, he and I went to the same shola in which he had observed the birds the day before and we were fortunate enough to see in the very same area about half-a-dozen feeding off small black berries, similar to elder berries. A clear view through binoculars soon revealed that this was a party of Pied Ground Thrush *Zoothera wardii* (Blyth) presumably on their northward passage. Because of the thick undergrowth it was not easy to assess the exact number of birds in the party but I estimate that there were not less than six out of which males and females were in equal numbers.

As the Pied Ground Thrush is apparently rare in this part of Kerala, I have seen only two in the past thirty-seven years, I think this note may be of interest and worth placing on record.

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